acclamation about India's progress in the field of science, the number of applications for patents being filed from India, have decreased;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its main reason are less allocation of funds for research in the Budget by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would make any provisions in the ensuing Budget to increase the funds allocation being spent on research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No Sir. In fact, filings of patent applications from India have gone up. The filings in the Indian Patent Office by Indian companies/ institutions/individuals/government agencies were 2179, 2371, 2693, 3218 and 3630 in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05 respectively. A study of the applications filed by Indian companies/ institutions/individuals/government agencies at the US Patent Office shows that the filings have an upward trend. The numbers are 636, 813, 1105, 937 and 1278 in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. The allocation for Research and Development has actually been increasing over the years.

Biotechnology policy

†1879. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the policy on bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology has formulated a Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy, which is a comprehensive roadmap for addressing cross-cutting issues related to human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotion of industry and trade, setting up of biotech parks, regulatory mechanism

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and public awareness, and an action plan for specific sub-sectors. The strategic action plan will direct the future priorities and activities in different sectors of biotechnology. The Draft Strategy was put on the website of Department of Biotechnology for eliciting views and comments. A large number of responses have been received from students, scientists, industries, research organization, NGO's etc and also the general public. In addition consultation with Industry and NGO's have also been held.

(c) and (d) The National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been finalized after incorporating the comments/suggestions received. The Draft Note for approval by cabinet is under inter-ministerial consultation.

Interaction between India and US scientists

1880. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Harvard and MIT scientists had recently interacted with the scientists of CSIR at a meet co-organized by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientists from CSIR who have been able to translate their research work into successful commercial ventures with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Indo-US Science and Technology Forum organized a seminar on "Technopreneurship in Academia" during 23-24 January 2006 in which a number of CSIR Scientists participated and interacted with key note speakers and venture capitalists from Harvard and MIT.

(c) (1) Dr. P. Shantan Rao, Scientist of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) has been granted Extraordinary Leave on foreign service terms for three years from 01.6.2005 to 31.5.2008 to enable him to become scientist entrepreneur while being associated with M/s BASR Fine Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Jeedimetla, Hyderabad, Andhara Pradesh as